

What is claimed is:

1. An epidural needle, comprising:

an elongate tube defining a longitudinal axis having a proximal end, a distal  
5 end and an axial hollow bore having an inside diameter therethrough;

a hub having a proximal end, a distal end and an open passageway  
therethrough, said hub being attached to said elongate tube so that said hollow bore  
of said elongate tube is in fluid communication and substantial axial alignment with  
said open passageway, said hub further having a cavity therein disposed between  
10 said proximal end and said distal end of said hub;

a resilient member having an opening therethrough defining an inner diameter  
and disposed in said cavity so that said opening is substantially axially aligned and in  
fluid communication with said open passageway; and

a clamp selectively movable between an open position wherein said inner  
15 diameter of said resilient member is substantially unaffected and a clamp position  
wherein said clamp causes a strain to at least a portion of said resilient member  
thereby reducing said inner diameter of said opening through at least a portion of  
said resilient member.

20 2. The epidural needle of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of said clamp  
projects outwardly from said hub to facilitate the practitioner's selective movement of  
said clamp between said open position and said clamp position.

3. The epidural needle of claim 2 wherein said portion of said clamp that  
25 projects outwardly from said hub further includes a releasable latch for selectively  
retaining said clamp in said clamp position.

4. The epidural needle of claim 3 further include a push tab extending  
away from the releasable latch to facilitate unclamping said clamp from said clamp  
30 position.

5. The epidural needle of claim 4 wherein the push tab is oriented for movement perpendicular to the elongate tube.

5 6. The epidural needle of claim 3 further including a support leg that limits movement of the latch.

7. The epidural needle of claim 1 wherein the clamp includes a pair of legs defining at least one radiused portion therein.

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8. The epidural needle of claim 7 wherein the resilient member defines a radiused portion and the radiused portion of the pair of legs has a radius substantially the same as the radiused portion of the resilient member.

15 9. The epidural needle of claim 8 where the pair of legs defines a second radiused portion adjacent to the at least one radiused portion.

10. A combined spinal epidural needle set comprises:  
an epidural needle including an elongate tube defining a longitudinal axis  
20 having a proximal end, a distal end and an axial hollow bore having an inside diameter therethrough, said epidural needle having a hub having a proximal end, a distal end and an open passageway therethrough, said hub being attached to said elongate tube so that said hollow bore of said elongate tube is in fluid communication and substantial axial alignment with said open passageway and wherein said hub  
25 further having a cavity disposed between said proximal end and said distal end of said hub, a resilient member having an opening therethrough defining an inner diameter and disposed in said cavity so that said opening is substantially axially aligned and in fluid communication with said open passageway, and a clamp having a releasable latch disposed about said resilient member, said clamp being selectively  
30 movable between an open position wherein said inner diameter of said resilient

member is substantially unaffected and a clamp position wherein said clamp causes a strain to said resilient member thereby reducing said inner diameter of said opening through said resilient member; and

5 a spinal needle having an outside diameter less than said inside diameter of said hollow tube disposed within said hollow bore, and wherein a practitioner using said epidural needle to position said spinal needle may freely axially move said spinal needle within said hollow bore with respect to said epidural needle and fix a position of said spinal needle relative to said epidural needle by said reduction of said inner diameter opening through said resilient member to a diameter less than  
10 said outside diameter of the spinal needle by movement of said clamp to said clamp position thereby to grasp releasably the spinal needle sufficiently to fix the position of the spinal needle with respect to the epidural needle.

11. The combined spinal epidural needle set of claim 10 wherein the spinal  
15 needle includes an indicia formed thereon for providing an indication to the practitioner of the location of the spinal needle with respect to the epidural needle.

12. The combined spinal epidural needle set of claim 11 wherein at least a  
20 portion of said clamp projects outwardly from said hub to facilitate the practitioner's selective movement of said clamp between said open position and said clamp position.

13. The combined spinal epidural needle set of claim 12 further including a  
25 push tab extending away from the releasable latch to facilitate unclamping said clamp from said clamp position.

14. The combined spinal epidural needle set of claim 13 wherein the push tab is oriented for movement perpendicular to the elongate tube.

15. The combined spinal epidural needle set of claim 14 further including a support leg that limits movement of the latch.

5 16. The combined spinal epidural needle set of claim 10 wherein the clamp includes a pair of legs defining at least one radiused portion therein.

10 17. The combined spinal epidural needle set of claim 16 wherein the resilient member defines a radiused portion and the radiused portion of the pair of legs has a radius substantially the same as the radiused portion of the resilient member.

18. The combined spinal epidural needle set of claim 17 where the pair of legs defines a second radiused portion adjacent to the at least one radiused portion.